



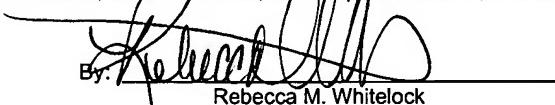
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PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 2860.721-01

**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING NO. EV 606 104 773 US**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, Mail Stop Amendment, on this day December 7, 2004.

By:   
Rebecca M. Whitelock

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
Shogo YAMAMOTO et al. ) Group Art Unit: 2873  
Application No.: 10/685,464 ) Examiner: David N. SPECTOR  
Filed: October 16, 2003 ) Confirmation No. 5446  
For: MOLDED OPTICAL COMPONENT, )  
HANDLING METHOD, AND )  
ASSEMBLY METHOD (as amended) )

**MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating in the Office Action dated August 4, 2004, that the above identified application contained Allowable Subject Matter and for identifying reasons for allowance. Applicants submit these comments to clarify the scope of the present claims, in light of the Examiner's stated Reasons for Allowance.

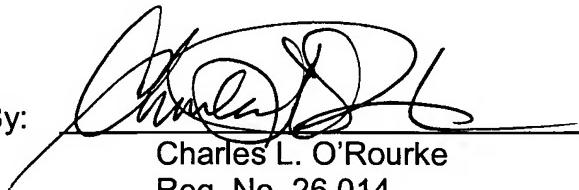
Applicants agree that the *written description* discloses at least "means [and] methods for handling small molded optical components . . . wherein some of the

artifacts of the molding processes which are typically attached to molded optical components upon release/removal from the mold are used to handle the aforesaid components for assembly and/or finishing tasks." August 4, 2004 Office Action, page 3. Applicants point out that the *claims at issue* do not recite any limitation on the size of the molded optical component or parts thereof. In a teleconference with Applicants' representatives on Tuesday, December 7, 2004, the Examiner indicated that his comment on the size of the molded optical components, "(e.g. on the order of a millimeter)," in the Statements on Reasons for Allowance in the Office Action of August 4, 2004, was merely exemplary and was not meant to limit the claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter these comments and charge any required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,  
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,  
FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER,  
L.L.P.

By:

  
Charles L. O'Rourke  
Reg. No. 26,014

Dated: December 7, 2004